

Document # 1: John Winthrop left England in 1630 with a group of Puritan settlers bound for New England. After arriving in Salem, Massachusetts, and before leaving the ship, Winthrop wrote a statement describing the ideals on which this new Puritan colony should be based.

“A Model of Christian Charity,”

“The only way....to provide for our posterity is...to do justly, to love mercy, [and] to walk humbly with our God...We must be knit together in this work as one man; we must entertain each other in brotherly affection...We must delight in each other, make others' conditions our own, rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together, always having before our eyes our commission and our community in the work; our community as members of the same body...

For we must consider that we shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall [behave badly] and so cause God to withdraw His present help from us, we shall open the mouths of enemies to speak evil of the ways of God....and cause their prayers to be turned into curses upon us till we be consumed out of the good land whither we are going.

....If our hearts shall turn away so that we will not obey, but shall be seduced and worship other gods, our pleasures, our profits, and serve them,....we shall surely perish out of the good land whither we pass over this vast sea to possess it.

Therefore let us choose life, that we, and our [children] may live; by obeying His voice, for He is our life and our prosperity.

posterity: future generations

prosperity: wealth

His/He: supreme being; God

1. How would you describe the Puritan community envisioned by John Winthrop? Do you think this kind of community is possible?
2. What do you think Winthrop meant by the term “city upon a hill”? Who do you think he expected would have their eyes upon the Puritans?
3. Do you think Winthrop considered Native Americans when he delivered this sermon? Do you think the Puritans upheld Winthrop’s vision in their dealings with Native Americans
Discuss.

Document # 2: Before leaving England in 1630, John Winthrop and other Puritans attended church services and heard a sermon preached by Rev. John Cotton. In the sermon “God’s Promise to His Plantation,” the Rev. Cotton said that the Puritans were God’s chosen people. In 1633 Cotton left England and settled in Boston.

“Divine Right to Occupy The Land”

“The placing of a people in this or that country is from the appointment of the Lord. . . . When either He gives them to discover it themselves, or hears of it discovered by others, and fitting them. . . . First, He carries them along to it, so that they plainly see a providence of God leading them from one country to another. . . Second, He makes room for a people to dwell there. . . Now, God makes room for a people. . . when He casts out the enemies of a people before them

by lawful war with the inhabitants. . . [Or] when He makes a country, through not altogether void of inhabitants, yet void in the place where they reside. Third, He gives a foreign people favor in the eyes of any native people to come and sit down with them....Forth, He makes a country empty of its inhabitants where the people will live. Where there is a vacant place, there is liberty for the sons of Adam or Noah to come and inhabit, though they neither buy it nor ask their leaves. . .”

appointment: assignment; decided on

inhabitant: people who live in a certain place

1. Who was John Cotton speaking to in this sermon? Why is he speaking about settling in a new land?
2. In this sermon, who are the ‘inhabitants’ in the new land? Who are the ‘foreign people’?
3. What does Cotton say that God will do for the foreign people when they arrive in the new land?

Document # 3: The Massachusetts Bay Colony Charter demonstrates how most Puritans viewed the Indians of New England.

“The principal end of this plantation [is] to win and incite the natives of [the] country to the knowledge and obedience of the only God and Savior of mankind, and the Christian Faith.” Settlers were instructed “to encounter, ...repel, and resist by force of arms [any effort to destroy the settlement].....neglect not walls....and fortifications for your own defense.”

incite: to encourage or stir up

1. What does the Bay Colony’s Charter show about the Puritans view of the native peoples?

2. What is of most importance to according to the charter?

“The Massacre at Mystic”

Critical Viewing Guide

Causes

1. Before the arrival of the British, what was the status of the Pequot in the Connecticut River Valley? How would you describe their relationships with other Native American tribes?
2. What role does the wampum trade play in the outbreak of war between the Pequots and the Puritans?
3. Compare and contrast Puritan and Pequot ideas about the following: land and property, division of labor and gender, and warfare? Give examples to back up your discussion.

Puritans

Pequots

a. Land and Property:

b. Division of Labor and Gender:

c. Warfare:

How might these differences be seen as a long-term cause for outbreak of the Pequot War?

4. In this program, one commentator suggests that the Dutch colonists favored trade, while the British prioritized land. How did the difference in focus shape their interactions with Native Americans, and their goals in the New World?

5. Why do you think the Narragansett and Mohegan tribes fought with the Puritans against the Pequot? Were you surprised by their actions? Discuss.

Effects

5. One commentator, Tall Oak, ponders how the early colonies would have been different if the Puritans had come in peace. How would you answer this question? Do you think a different outcome in relations between the Pequot and the Puritans was possible?

6. Describe the details of the 1638 Treaty of Hartford, which ended the war. Why was the treaty considered to be cultural genocide for the Pequot?

7. How did the massacre at Mystic changed the United States? Explain.